

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

----- 124941

R 211407Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TOHRUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3519

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1886

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PLO

SUBJ: PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL

REF: DAMASCUS 770

1. PNC CHAIRMAN KHALID AL-FAHUM IN HIS PRESS STATEMENT AFTER MEETING OF PALESTINIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL MAY 20 (FBIS) SAID THAT QUESTION OF CONVOKING NEXT PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL HAD BEEN REFERRED TO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF EXEC CTE AND NATIONAL COUNCIL BUREAU. HE ADDED THAT EXPANSION OF PNC WAS GENERALLY FAVORED BY PALESTINIAN GROUPS. THIRDLY, HE SAID THAT OWING TO SALZBURG AND ARAB SUMMIT MEETINGS IN JUNE, CENTRAL COUNCIL HAD POSTPONED PNC MEETING TO LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST.

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2. KNOWLEDGEABLE PALESTINIAN SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF

MAY 21 HE HAD ASKED AL-FAHUM PREVIOUS EVENING WHAT CENTRALCOUNCIL HAD REALLY DECIDED ABOUT PNC. AL-FAHUM REPLIED "NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED," AND WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT CENTRAL COUNCIL WAS SPLIT OVER QUESTION OF EXPANDING REPRESENTATION. FEDAYEEN GROUPS WERE FEARFUL THAT EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP TO INCLUDE INTELLECTUALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER PALESTINIAN GROUPS, WHICH AL-FAHUM PERSONALLY FAVORS IN ORDER TO MAKE PNC MORE REPRESENTATIVE BODY, WOULD DIMINISH PRESENT FEDAYEEN CONTROL. FEDAYEEN GROUPS OF REJECTIONIST FRONT WERE ALSO THREATENING TO HOLD RUMP PNC IN BAGHDAD IF THEIR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION WERE REDUCED. AL-FAHUM SAID PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WAS MERELY STOP-GAP GAMBIT. IF CURRENT DISAGREEMENTS NOT RESOLVED, HE THOUGHT MOST LIKELY RESULT WOULD BE TO POSTPONE SELECTION OF NEW PNC FOR ONE YEAR "IN VIEW OF CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN ME."
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, MEETINGS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01886
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750178-0662
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750528/aaaaazdb.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL
TAGS: PINT, PLO
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006